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CLAIMS

What is claimed to be new and desired to be protected by Letters Patent is set forth in the appended claims.

I claim:

1. An apparatus for illuminating the target of a handgun, comprising:
 - a) a handgun, said handgun having a front end and a rear end, said handgun having a handle disposed on said rear end for a user to grasp and a barrel disposed on said front end for directing a projectile, said handgun having a bore therein, said bore being adjacent to and parallel to said barrel, said bore being disposed on said front end of said handgun;
 - b) a housing disposed in said bore, said housing having a front end and a rear opposing end;
 - c) a light disposed in said front end of said housing, said light for illuminating the target of the handgun, wherein said light illuminates a field having a specified angle of light projection;
 - d) a light angle adjustment switch to permit the angle of light projection which is illuminated to be varied;
 - e) means for activating said light whereby the light is automatically

activated by raising the barrel of the handgun from a holstered position to a drawn position;

f) a manual light shutoff switch to permit the light to be controlled manually regardless of the position of the barrel of the handgun; and,

g) a power supply for operating the apparatus to permit a target to be illuminated.

2. The apparatus of Claim 1, further comprising a lens for placement over said light to permit the light to be protected.

3. The apparatus of Claim 2, wherein said light is a light emitting diode to permit the target to be illuminated.

4. The apparatus of Claim 3, wherein said light is an infrared light to permit the target to be illuminated in darkness.

5. The apparatus of Claim 4, further comprising an end cap disposed on said rear end of said housing.

6. The apparatus of Claim 5, wherein said power supply comprises at least one battery.

7. The apparatus of Claim 6, wherein said means for activating said light

comprises a mercury switch.

8. The apparatus of Claim 7, wherein said mercury switch comprises:

a) a chamber disposed in said housing, said chamber having a first and second opposing end;

b) a rotatable circular plate disposed in said chamber between said first and second ends, thereby forming a first front and second rear chamber, said plate being disposed perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the housing, said plate having a plurality of spaced apart holes therein, said holes being disposed along about one-half of the outer periphery of the plate to permit mercury to flow therethrough as said handgun is raised from the holstered position to the drawn position;

c) an electrical contact disposed in said rear chamber;

d) wherein all the mercury is disposed in said front chamber when said barrel of said handgun is in the holstered position; and,

e) wherein said mercury passes through at least one of said holes in said plate as the handgun is raised from the holstered position to the drawn position, wherein said mercury physically contacts said contact completing an electrical circuit between said contact and said first front chamber and thereby between said light and said power supply causing said light to automatically light.

9. An apparatus for illuminating the target of a handgun, comprising:

a) a handgun, said handgun having a front end and a rear end, said handgun having a handle disposed on said rear for a user to grasp and a barrel disposed on said front end for directing a projective, said handgun having a bore therein, said bore being adjacent to and parallel to said barrel, said bore being disposed on said front end of said handgun;

b) a housing disposed in said bore, said housing having a front end and a rear opposing end;

c) a light disposed in said front end of said housing, said light for illuminating the target of the handgun wherein said light illuminates a field having a specified angle of light projection;

d) a receiver disposed in said housing for activating said light upon receiving a signal;

e) a transmitter disposed on said handgun for transmitting an activation signal to said receiver;

f) a transmitter pad disposed on said handgun, said pad for being activated by the user, wherein said pad activates said transmitter to transmit an activation signal to said receiver; and,

g) a power supply for operating the apparatus to permit a target to be illuminated.

10. The apparatus of Claim 9, further comprising a lens for placement over

said light to permit the light to be protected.

11. The apparatus of Claim 10, wherein said light is a light emitting diode to permit the target to be illuminated.

12. The apparatus of Claim 11, wherein said light is an infrared light to permit the target to be illuminated in darkness.

13. The apparatus of Claim 12, further comprising an end cap disposed on said rear end of said housing.

14. The apparatus of Claim 13, wherein said power supply comprises at least one battery.

15. The apparatus of Claim 14, wherein said transmitter and said transmitter pad are integrally constructed.

16. The apparatus of Claim 15, wherein said transmitter pad is pressure-activated by the user.

17. The apparatus of Claim 16, wherein said transmitter pad is disposed on said handle of said handgun for being activated by the user.

18. The apparatus of Claim 17, wherein said transmitter pad is activated to turn on said light only while pressure is being supplied to said pad by the user and allows said light to be turned off when pressure by the user is removed from said pad.

19. The apparatus of Claim 8, wherein said plate can be rotated to vary the angle of the handgun at which mercury begins to flow through said holes.